

Q. No, I mean from teachers getting out of work.

The President. Oh. You mean, teachers being laid off?

Q. Yes.

The President. Well, where do you live?

Q. I live in Washington.

The President. In Washington. This is a problem around the country because a lot of State and local governments haven't had enough money to fund their school budgets. I think you asked me about that, too, earlier.

There is nothing I can do about it directly, because the United States Government, the President and the Congress don't hire teachers; they're all hired at local school district level. But there are two things that I can do to help indirectly. One is to try to get the economy going again, because if people are working, they'll be paying taxes, and the school districts will have more money. That's the most important thing I could do.

The second thing is to try to have the National Government help our schools a little more than they have for the last 12 years, and the budget that I gave to the Congress does ask us to put more money into education. And that should help some of the school districts around the country.

The most important thing I can do is give them a healthy economy, because most of the money to run the school district comes from the local level. It doesn't come here to Washington.

Child Support Enforcement and Tax Reform

Q. Yes. I was just wondering: How can you help the families where there's a mom and she's taking care of a kid or kids, and the father isn't willing or isn't able to pay child support.

Mr. Jennings. And you have about 30 seconds, Mr. President.

The President. If he's not willing, we can have much tougher child support enforcement. I feel very strongly about it, and I've got a good program to strengthen it. If he's not able and the mother is working and taking care of the kids, I think the tax system should actually give the mother money back, if necessary. I think any parent that's working 40 hours a week with children in the home

should not live in poverty. I think we should change the tax system so that people who work with children should be lifted out of poverty.

Mr. Jennings. That's a good question, Jordan. In fact, you know where you can watch for something on that? In the confirmation hearings for your new Attorney General.

The President. That's right.

Mr. Jennings. —because she has quite a reputation in Florida on that particular subject.

We could go on. You've been very gracious to stay the extra half-hour.

Did you enjoy yourselves this morning? Was he good? Yes? He was okay?

The President. I loved it.

Mr. Jennings. Satisfied with all the answers?

The President. No. [Laughter] Thank you.

Mr. Jennings. Well, Mr. President, you know as well as I do it's a rare treat for any of us to be able to come in here and to see you. Thank you very much for having us. Thank you all.

The President. You're terrific; our country's in good hands, all of you. I feel good about our future just listening to you.

Mr. Jennings. Have a good weekend, everybody. Thank you very much, and goodbye from the East Room at the White House.

The President. Thank you.

NOTE: The town meeting began at 11:30 a.m. in the East Room at the White House. Peter Jennings, ABC News, was the moderator for the program. During the meeting, Mr. Jennings referred to Stephen Urkel, the character on ABC's television program "Family Matters" played by actor Jalleel White. Prior to the town meeting, the President conducted a brief tour of the White House.

Nomination of Mary Jo Bane To Be Assistant Secretary of Health and Human Services for Children and Families

February 20, 1993

President Clinton announced today that he will nominate Mary Jo Bane, New York

State's Commissioner of Social Services, to the position of Assistant Secretary of Health and Human Services for Children and Families.

Ms. Bane has been with the New York Department of Social Services since April 1992. She had previously served at that department as Executive Deputy Commissioner from 1984 to 1986. In between, she was a professor and Director of the Malcolm Weiner Center for Social Policy at Harvard's Kennedy School of Government.

Ms. Bane has also served as Deputy Assistant Secretary of Education from 1980 to 81, as an associate professor of education at Harvard University Graduate School, and as associate director of the M.I.T.-Harvard Joint Center for Urban Studies. She has also been a volunteer with the Peace Corps, and is the author of many books and articles on welfare and public policy.

Remarks on the Economic Plan in Santa Monica, California

February 21, 1993

The President. Thank you very much, President Moore, and ladies and gentlemen. This is a wonderful welcome on a Sunday afternoon, and I'm very grateful to you.

I was honored to fly out here today with two of your Members of Congress: Congressman Waxman and his wife, I know we're in Henry's district, he's here; Senator Barbara Boxer and her husband down there. And I think we have four or five other Members of Congress here. Where are they all? Here they are, Maxine Waters, Jane Harman, Howard Berman.

We have a lot of your State officials here and mayors. Mayor Bradley, I think is here. He met me at the airport. I resent Mayor Bradley. He looks 10 years younger than me. *[Laughter]* I see a lot of my old friends here, a lot of members of your legislature. If I start introducing people I will never quit. But I do want to say a special word of appreciation to Speaker Willie Brown and Senator Roberti and those who invited me. They sponsored, along with Governor Wilson, that economic summit for California, and they invited me to call in, and I appreciate that. And I am

glad to see—I have to say a few things—I see your Lieutenant Governor, Leo McCarthy; and March Fong Yu here, secretary of state; and Gray Davies, your comptroller; Tom Hayden and Diane Watson; and Yvonne Burke. I'm pretty good at this, don't you think? I mean, just for a guy who walked in. And I still think John Garamendi's health care plan may wind up being the model for what we do in the country. It's got a lot to recommend it. Is the Mayor of Santa Monica here? Judy Abdo, stand up here. How are you? And we're in Terry Friedman's district. Is he here? There he is. Marguerite Archie Hudson, is she here? That's right. And we've got a lot of L.A. council members here. I see several here, Zev and others. Now we have—Santa Monica council.

Now, I'm leading up to something here which is that I want to introduce two other people. One is a good friend of mine, someone who helped me with higher education issues in the transition, and one of America's most distinguished educators, Dr. Johnetta Cole, the president of Spelman College is over here. Then I want to introduce someone who sort of played a hobo in my Inaugural gala and who makes me the second most famous person in the room, Mr. Bill Cosby, who just came in over here.

Ladies and gentlemen, I wanted to come out to California, which was so good to me and to Al Gore, a State that did so much to give us a chance to serve and to try to turn our country around, to talk about the economic plan that I have presented to the Congress, the challenge that it presents to the country, and the help that all of us need from you to have any hope of its passage.

I have embraced as my cause the idea that every person in this country ought to be able to live up to the fullest of their God-given potential. If it can happen anywhere, it must happen in California. Unless California is revived, the Nation cannot recover economically. And unless the people who live here in this State, indeed in this county, with all of its multiracial and multiethnic and multi-religious implications, unless you can draw strength out of your diversity, the Nation cannot bring strength out of its diversity and out of the challenges we face today.